

Serial No.: 09/873,828  
Attorney Docket No.: 9L01,1-030  
PATENT

### **REMARKS**

The Applicants have received and reviewed the Office Action mailed September 8, 2004. The Applicants originally submitted claims 1-34 in this application. By the present Response and Amendment, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 13 and 24, and have canceled claims 4, 16 and 27. Thus, claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-26 and 28-34 remain pending in this application. The Applicants have not introduced any new matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 18-26 and 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Carlson et al. (US Patent No. 5,600,791). However, the Examiner also indicated that claims 4, 5, 16, 17, 27 and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24 to include the subject matter of claims 4, 16 and 27, respectively. Therefore, as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, independent claims 1, 13 and 24, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2, 3 and 6-11 depend directly or indirectly from Independent claim 1 and thus incorporate all of the features of claim 1. Similarly, dependent claims 14, 15 and 18-23 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 13 and thus incorporate all of the features of claim 13. Also, dependent claims 25, 26 and 29-34 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 24 and thus incorporate all of the features of claim 24. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 6-11, 14, 15, 18-23, 25, 26 and 29-34 are allowable at least because of their respective claim dependencies. Moreover, these claims recite other features that, when combined with the subject matter of their respective independent claim, are not shown in the cited art.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 18-26 and 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

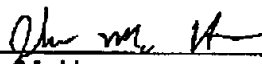
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The Examiner indicated that claim 12 is allowed. The Applicants thank the Examiner for noting the allowed claim.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments submitted herein and the above comments, the Applicants respectfully submit that all grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application has now been placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants earnestly solicit early and favorable action. Should there be any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is urged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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